

**WCCO-TV QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT**  
**PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2006 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2006**

ATTACHED ARE LISTINGS OF BROADCASTS OR BROADCAST SEGMENTS WHICH, IN THE STATION'S JUDGEMENT, REFLECT THE STATION'S MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF ASCERTAINED COMMUNITY ISSUES DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2006 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2006.

PROGRAM INDEX: "**WCCO 4 News**" is a regularly scheduled half-hour newscast at 5:00, 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. Duration of stories listed in this report range from 1 to 12 minutes.

**"60 MINUTES"** is a regularly scheduled one-hour CBS News magazine show. Segments run approximately 12 minutes.

**"48 HOURS INVESTIGATES"** is a regularly scheduled one-hour CBS News magazine show. Segments run approximately 12 minutes.

CONSUMER: Cold WX Rule, United Health, Gift Card Scam, Lead Jewelry Ban, ID Theft Underground

**October 13, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Cold WX Rule”** – The cold weather rule protects consumers from getting their heat shut off. For low-income families with senior citizens, children or disabled family members, there are also heating assistance grants paid directly by the state to lower energy bills. Utility companies are urging customers who can’t pay their heating bills to contact them as soon as they can to work out a plan to avoid getting their heat shut off. **October 16, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “United Health”** – United Health, a Minnetonka health care company has been under fire all year over allegations that stock options granted to its Chairman and CEO were backdated. Fines could total as much as \$1.7 billion, which has consumers concerned about increases in their premiums. A company spokesman has said that will not happen. **December 2, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Gift Card Scam”** – The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers of a new scam. Thieves are copying the number off gift cards sitting on store shelves. They then wait about a week, call the 800 number to see if the card has been activated and start shopping online. To avoid falling victim to this scam, look for gift cards that require pin numbers, and have the clerk scan your card immediately to make sure it registers the money you added. **December 12, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Lead Jewelry Ban”** – The Consumer Product Safety Commission today took the first steps to ban jewelry that contains high levels of lead. Two and a half years ago, the WCCO-TV I-Team found dangerous levels of lead in 80 % of the jewelry we tested. Since then, more than 160 million necklaces, rings and bracelets have been pulled from store shelves. However the recalls didn’t prevent the death of a 4-year-old Minneapolis child. A ban likely will not take effect for a year. **December 14, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “ID Theft Underground”** – There is a dangerous new underworld operating on the Internet – secret chat rooms and message boards where Social Security, credit card, bank account and even PIN numbers are hot commodities. While it’s nearly impossible for the average person to locate these sites, computer savvy identity thieves have no trouble finding them. Cardcops, a company that has infiltrated hundreds of these sites is warning banks and consumers. Their advice is to never answer an email asking for personal information, shred all financial paperwork and for extra protection, set up a fraud alert with the credit bureaus so you can be notified if anyone tries to open an account in your name.

CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Nuisance Crime, Crime Stoppers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Cops, Safe Zones, Zimmerman, U of M Shuttle,

**October 13, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Nuisance Crime”** – Minneapolis convenience stores and other business owners have a new high tech way of clearing their property of drug dealers, prostitution and shoplifters. It’s called Message on Demand (MOD), and gives clerks and other store employees a different way to deter crime before it starts. Speakers mounted inside and out of the stores deliver specific warning messages for frequent problems. Clerks can push a button to send audio warnings to people causing trouble outside the store. **November 27, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Crime Stoppers”** –

Crime Stoppers offers money to generate tips about cases that are tough to crack, and offers tipsters an anonymous way to call. Many Crime Stoppers groups in other states get funding from court fees. However, the Crime Stoppers that serves the Twin Cities relies on donations. Last month they ran out of money and are currently seeking grant money and corporate donations to re-start the program. **December 4, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Cops”** – In an effort to curb crime near the U of M and other parts of the 2<sup>nd</sup> precinct, police will soon leave their cars behind and walk the beat. Within the next few weeks, beat cops will patrol the areas Northeast and Central Minneapolis, as well the university and stadium village. **December 15, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Safe Zones”** – With hundreds of extra people coming downtown during the holiday season, crimes have risen. Last month, the downtown Safe Zone Patrol, was cut from 9 officers to 2 after state funding ran out. The Hennepin County Sheriff’s Department is picking up the tab to add 3 of its deputies to help Minneapolis Police patrol the downtown area. **December 19, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Zimmerman”** – A federal judge has sentenced former Minneapolis City Councilman Dean Zimmerman to 2 ½ years in prison for taking bribes totaling \$7200. Prosecutors alleged that he made repeated false statements to FBI agents when they questioned him about money he took from a local developer. Zimmerman admitted taking the money, but still maintains that it wasn’t in return for any favors he did as a council member. **December 26, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “U of M Shuttle”** – Since the parties kicked off around campus last fall, more and more students have become victims of weekend crime. To help combat growing crime, the Minnesota Student Association will soon provide a free shuttle service to U of M students on weekends. From 10:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m., the shuttle will make runs to bars, restaurants, parties or wherever it’s needed within a 1-mile radius of campus.

GOVERNMENT: Property Taxes, St. Paul Levy, Transportation Amendment, Immigration Bill,

**October 16, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Property Taxes”** – Property taxes have increased in Minnesota by more than \$1.5 billion since 2002. House Republicans say Democrats have rejected their plans for property tax relief, including a cap on tax increases and a tax rebate. Democrats say Governor Pawlenty’s cuts in local government aid has caused property taxes to skyrocket. **October 25, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Transportation Amendment”** – Some legislators are trying to nix the transportation amendment which would permanently set aside vehicle sales tax proceeds for transportation projects. They say the ballot question is confusing and there’s no guarantee that road and bridge projects will get any funding at all. The wording says at least 40% of funding would go to mass transit and no more than 60% would go to highways. **October 5, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “St. Paul Levy”** – The St. Paul School District is asking voters to approve a levy of \$30 million a year for six years to help city schools. If the referendum fails, the district will have to cut \$17 million immediately, affecting every school. It would mean millions cut from special education and English language learning and the loss of 200 jobs. The levy would cost the average homeowner about \$85 a year in property taxes. **December 18, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Immigration Bill”** – The raid on illegal workers at the Swift plant in Worthington is causing political reverberations hundreds of miles away. At the office of U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, a protest of the Immigration Service was held. At

the state capitol, Governor Tim Pawlenty says Minnesota needs to get serious about tougher laws against undocumented workers. The governor says he'll re-submit a bill requiring immigrants to carry fraud-proof identity documents. Advocates for undocumented immigrants say the Swift Plant raid in Worthington shows the need for a guest worker program for jobs Minnesotans won't do, calling the governor's approach "anti-immigrant".

DIVERSITY: Ellison Wins, Muslims Detained

**November 8, 2006, WCCO 4 News, "Ellison Wins"** - Minnesota has made history in the 2006 election with Keith Ellison winning a seat in Congress. Besides being the first Muslim elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, he is also the first African American from Minnesota to win a seat in Congress. **November 21, 2006, WCCO 4 News, "Muslims Detained"** – Six Muslim religious leaders were taken off a US Airways plane bound for Phoenix at the Minneapolis airport. Airport police questioned them for several hours. A passenger was concerned because of the way the men were seated around the plane; two in front, two in the middle and two at the back and heard the men chanting "Allah, Allah" before they boarded the plane. The men say they were doing their evening prayers and they plan to file a complaint.

ENVIRONMENT: Getting On Board, Energy Future, Reality Check: Energy Plan

**October 24, 2006, WCCO 4 News, "Getting On Board"** - Officials from the Metropolitan Council will release a new report showing the most efficient way to move forward with our transportation projects. The report, called Getting On Board, reveals that the Twin Cities is falling way behind other major metro areas due to our congestion problem. The report stresses expanding public transit as the key to fighting the congestion and also includes an economic plan for ways to be better to the environment. **November 17, 2006, WCCO 4 News, "Energy Future"** – Right now, coal is the major source of electricity in Minnesota and a main contributor to greenhouse gases. The state legislature has asked utility companies to look at using renewable sources to generate at least ten percent of their power by 2015. **December 13, 2006, WCCO 4 News, "Reality Check: Energy Plan"** – The governor's aggressive energy plan reflects a scientific fact that not everyone accepts: Global warming exists and humans are causing it. Although some part of climate change occurs naturally, there is significant evidence the fossil fuels we burn, like oil, coal and natural gas, are a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions and rising Earth temperatures. Other states, like California, have laws limiting carbon emissions from vehicle tailpipes or mandatory curbs on power plant carbon dioxide emissions. The governor is asking a national group to study Minnesota's climate changes and he wants to require utility companies who increase energy production to offset the higher carbon emissions by lowering emissions in other plants elsewhere.

HEALTH: Eat Fish, Cough Syrup, Sinus Relief

**October 17, 2006, WCCO 4 News, "Eat Fish"** – New research from the Institute of Medicine finds eating fish and shellfish twice a week can cut your risk of heart disease.

And, seafood full of Omega-3 fatty acids, like salmon, may help newborns and pregnant women. Researchers say the government now needs to help consumers figure out which seafood is safest. **October 23, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Cough Syrup”** – Americans spend \$3.5 billion a year on over-the-counter cough syrup each year, but a major study by the American College of Chest Physicians shows the syrup is ineffective and offers no relief. The study indicates that these cough syrups don’t work because they contain drugs too low in dose or they contain a combination of drugs that have never been proven to work. **December 18, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Sinus Relief”** – A Minneapolis surgeon has been using a new procedure on patients with chronic sinus infections. Balloon Sinuplasty is similar to the angioplasty procedure used for clogged heart arteries. While traditional surgery still has its place, this new, minimally invasive approach is more patient-friendly. There is very little bleeding and recovery time is significantly less.

WOMEN: Klobuchar Today, Women Lawmakers, Attempted Assaults, Bleskachek

**November 8, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Klobuchar Today”** – Democrat Amy Klobuchar sailed to an easy victory in the U.S. Senate race, capitalizing on voter anger over the Iraq war. She made history by becoming the first elected female from Minnesota to the U.S. Senate. **November 20, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Women Lawmakers”** – There are more women in the Minnesota state legislature than ever before. Seventy of the state’s 201 lawmakers are women, including the powerful Speaker of the House. Suburban women fueled the record number of females in the legislature where the most important issues are property taxes, education and health care. Minnesota now reflects a new view – that women run hard, play tough and win on specific issues. **December 12, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Attempted Assaults”** - St. Paul Police want to warn women about a man who has tried to force or lure 3 women into his van in the past month. The attempted assaults have occurred in three places across St. Paul between 8:00 p.m. and midnight. In one instance, he physically tried to grab the person and pull her into the van. All of the women escaped and were unharmed, but police believe he will strike again and are urging women to take extra safety precautions. **December 21, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Blekachek”** – Minneapolis Fire Chief, Bonnie Blekachek was demoted to an administrative job, ending an embarrassing standoff with city leaders over a raft of sexual harassment allegations against the nation’s first openly lesbian chief. The City Council voted 8-5 to approve a deal that demoted her, but stopped short of the firing that many city residents wanted. Three female firefighters sued, alleging various acts of discrimination and sexual harassment. Two of those lawsuits were settled, but a male firefighter brought another lawsuit last month, alleging that he was denied advancement because he is male and not gay.

YOUTH AND FAMILY: Vietnam Volunteers, Older Adoption, Ambien Abuse, Gang Intervention, Juvenile Crime

**October 7, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Vietnam Volunteers”** – Two teenagers from Eden Prairie went to Vietnam this summer to be counselors at a camp for orphans. Their parents wanted them to live like children in a third world country. They lived without air conditioning in the tropical climate and had to eat what the little orphans did – a diet of

fish head soup and rice. When they returned home, they both had a new sense of appreciation for what they have. **October 30, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Older Adoption”**- The Homecoming Project is a federally funded experiment in its third year. It lets kids describe themselves to potential adoptive parents. More than 600 Minnesota kids need homes immediately and 38% of them are between the ages of 12 and 18. Thus far, 23 teens in the Homecoming Project have found a vital family connection, but there are still 50 waiting. **December 12, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Ambien Abuse”** –According to the National Institute On Drug Abuse, the number of teens misusing sedatives such as Ambien has nearly doubled in the last decade. In a recent survey, 1 out of 14 high school seniors admitted taking sedatives without a prescription last year alone. One reason for the increase in use is that these pills are easy to get from online pharmacies or friends willing to share. Teens say the drug makes them high and has become their party drug of choice. Doctors say abusing Ambien can cause dangerous side affects, including memory loss and blackouts. **December 21, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Gang Intervention”** – The St. Paul Police Gang Unit has a new program, GREAT, which puts officers in classrooms to teach and reach kids at a young age. GREAT stands for Gang Resistance Education And Training. The 13-week program is aimed at teaching kids how to make good choices when it comes to choosing friends, avoiding peer pressure, getting out of unsafe situations and saying no to drugs. Officers think this proactive approach is working and they have seen changes in the kids’ attitudes toward the police. **December 29, 2006, WCCO 4 News, “Juvenile Crime”** – There were more rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults in Minneapolis during the past year compared to 2005, with most of the increase attributed to gang-related violence among the city’s youth. Mayor Rybak says the city plans to continue programs that encourage at-risk teens and pre-teens to stay in school and avoid getting involved with gangs.